

2016. Although she had the task of juggling the roles of a full-time wife, mother of two daughters, a student, and an employee, her life has been quite a challenge and a rewarding experience. As she continued the journey to pursue her degree and stay actively engaged in her community, she is reminded of an encouraging scripture, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Captain Peppers enrolled in the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Leadership Cognate at Liberty University. After 22 years since completing her studies at Jackson State University, she maintained a 4.0 GPA during her first semester in the program, only by God's grace and mercy. Veronica received a new assignment in the Mississippi Army National Guard as a Training Officer of the 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where she provides operation and training management guidance to the battalion for more than 630 service members. Her additional duties included Equal Opportunity Advisor, Antiterrorism Officer, and Family Readiness Group Coordinator.

She is a graduate of Leadership Madison County (1990) and a current life member of both National Guard Association of the United States and National Guard Association of Mississippi, where she currently serves on the board of directors as the Company Grade Officer Representative.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Captain Veronica Peppers.

IOWAN OF THE WEEK MARY CAMPOS

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Mary Campos, a longtime Iowan civil rights activist. Campos was the first Latina inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. In 2017, she received the American Civil Liberties Union Edward S. Allen Award for her time helping non-English speaking families learn English and helping them through the steps to become a U.S. Citizen. She has also earned the Ohtli Award, the highest honor given from the Mexican government to a Mexican descendent for her work assisting Mexican immigrants. She has served on the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and the League for United Latin American Citizens and was one of the founders of the National Black and Brown Forum. Campos, who turned 90 in November, is still serving her community in various capacities.

Ms. Campos received an honorary nursing degree from the Des Moines Area Community College. Al Exito, a catalyst for the empowerment of Latino youth in Iowa, conducted the third annual Mary E. Campos Luncheon where DMACC President, Rob Denson, presented the honorary degree. Al Exito started the Mary E. Campos Scholarship to help honor Campos' dream of seeing young people, especially students of color, earn higher education degrees and fill positions of leadership within their communities.

It is an honor to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Ms. Campos and celebrate the determination and hard work that she and other activists like her have put into Iowa. I have great respect and admiration for folks who stand up for people who can't always stand up for themselves, and I am humbled by Ms. Campos' decades and decades of bravery and compassion.

I applaud Ms. Mary Campos for her unwavering dedication. Let us be of service this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and remember the important work of Dr. King that lives on in people like Mary Campos.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LARRY J. RAVEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Larry J. Raven, who passed away on January 6, 2020. Larry was an appointee to the City of Fresno Parks Commission, the blue-ribbon Zoo Commission and the General Plan Commission for over 40 years.

Larry J. Raven was born on January 25, 1939 in Selma, California to Isabel and Phil Raven and was a lifelong Fresno County resident. He and his older brother, Jerry W. Raven started a dairy on their parent's ranch when Larry was just 13. Larry was active in Future Farmers of America at Selma Union High School, serving as president in 1957. He earned the title of California Farmer and in 1958 achieved the highest honor of American Farmer. In 1961, he and his brother opened a drive-thru grocery store in Selma and sold their own brand of milk, Roselane.

In June of 1963, Larry married the love of his life Penny Nichelini. Two years later, Penny and Larry opened the first R Pantry Market, a drive-thru grocery market. In a few short years they had 9 convenience stores and an additional 3 old fashioned meat markets called, Holy Cow Meat Markets. Always ahead of his time, the R Pantry Markets, Inc. was the first franchised convenience market chain in the state of California and the first business in the state to offer self-service gasoline pumps.

In the 1970s, Larry and Penny purchased an old winery in Selma, renamed it Raven Alcohol Distillery, and converted it to California's first fuel alcohol distillery, producing thousands of gallons of product daily. He became a national expert on the conversion of molasses to fuel alcohol and obtained a U.S. Patent in 2002 for his "Process and Apparatus for Conversion of Biodegradable Organic Material into Product Gas".

In the 1970s, both Larry and Penny became licensed California Real Estate brokers and founded The Raven Company. Shortly after, Larry became a licensed California Contractor and built his first subdivision in Selma, eventually building over 1,000 family homes and neighborhoods. For the America's Bicentennial, Larry spearheaded the idea of planting thousands of red, white and blue petunias along the old boulevard and it was designated "America's Largest, Private Bicentennial Display". Larry was an outspoken supporter of

the completion of Highways 41, 180 and 168 and invited the California Highway Commission to meet in Fresno; at his urging the Commission voted to allocate the funds to build Highway 41.

In the 1980s, Larry and his sons began the yuletide tradition of "Candlelight Christmas on Huntington Boulevard" with over 100 homeowners decorating their homes which delighted tens of thousands of visitors annually and continued for 21 years. Larry also organized an effort to paint the 52 classic lampposts in the historic mile, becoming the largest private improvement ever made to city property and featured in Sunset Magazine. Between 2010–2015, the couple acquired several ranches with plans to build subdivisions. As a result, Larry went back to his roots and became a successful farmer, devoting most of his time to a 120-acre ranch in Sanger with oranges and almonds.

Larry is survived by his wife, Penny and their sons Tagge and Corby; Corby's wife Stephanie Raven and their four children, Bella, Carsyn, Audrey Grace and Declyn Raven; his brother Jerry W. Raven and wife LaVerne Raven and many nephews and a niece.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Larry J. Raven. His commitment and dedication to the Central Valley community left an impact on many. We join his family and friends in honoring his great life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. McEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on January 9, 2020 during roll call no. 5, On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 83, directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I was also unavoidably detained during roll call no. 6, On Agreeing to the Resolution, Providing for consideration of H. Con. Res. 83, directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to terminate the use of United States Armed Forces to engage in hostilities in or against Iran. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING JONAS SALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR BEING NAMED A 2019 NATIONAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT (ESEA) DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 24, 2020

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jonas Salk Elementary School of Bolingbrook, Illinois as a 2019 ESEA Distinguished School.